

PRAY

NORTH AFRICAN & MIDDLE EASTERN PEOPLES



Rejoice always, **pray without ceasing**,
give thanks in all circumstances; for this
is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

– 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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Every day people around the world wake up and say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit." Yet they do not know what tomorrow will bring, for what is their life? They are like a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes (James 4:13–14).

In these pages you will get a broad overview of the lives of people in North Africa and the Middle East. You will see where and how they live. You will read about who they worship and what they fear. You will be offered a chance to join with others and pray for nations to have access to the gospel soon.

Time is not in our hands, but it is in God's sovereign hands. May these people hear and believe the gospel of Christ in their lifetime.

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This guide contains eight themes to help you pray for the peoples of North Africa and the Middle East. We encourage you to gather with friends or small groups to pray for each need. It is designed to be used at your own pace. You could meet monthly, weekly, or even eight days in a row.

It is our hope that as you pray for countries and people around the world, your hearts will grow together in a desire to see Christ exalted in your own community and among the nations.



REFUGEES

“My husband was shot by a sniper. My village is flattened. It is now dirt.” Many among the 8.7 million refugees of North Africa and Middle East (NAME) have said these words. But in the midst of despondency, people have heard a message of hope for the first time. Hearing blessings for food

in Jesus' name, seeing the film based on Luke's gospel, listening to Bible stories, and having visions of the radiant risen Christ are factors common to those coming to Christ. Many take steps of belief and baptism despite persecution from suspicious neighbors and family members.

Discuss how you might cope with the overwhelming loss if your home were destroyed and those closest to you killed. How would your faith help you in those circumstances?

Pray and thank God for refugees who heard the gospel and responded to it. Pray that they will share the Word in every place they go—even back to their home country when peace comes.



REFUGEE HOSTS

North Africa and the Middle East is not only one region from which refugees come, it is also a region where multiple countries are hosting refugees. Sixty-five million people globally are homeless because of war and natural disasters. The journey of those victims to safety is not without hardships. Once in their new countries, refugees have significant

physical and emotional needs, which are overwhelming. The local church recognizes the amazing opportunity to be supportive to these refugees, yet many Christians don't feel equipped to reach out. Trauma support training is helping believers care for the refugees' emotional needs while providing another way to share the gospel.

Discuss your personal struggles with the “refugee crisis.”

Considering the many scriptural examples of helping the needy, what should be our response as Christians?

Pray for the Comforter's Word to dwell richly in the refugees' hearts and for refugees to be guided towards his healing power.



TRAINING

North Africans are the largest represented NAME group in Europe, numbering approximately 9.1 million, yet they remain largely unreached by the gospel. When North Africans believe, or are seeking to know Truth, they try to blend into local European churches that don't always know how to meet their needs or relate

to their context. Christian workers are seeking to train North Africans in story telling techniques so that they can take the Good News back to their own people. As they share, they see people come to Christ. Some have caught a vision to return and plant churches among new believers.

Discuss how important is it for people to hear the gospel in their own language from people who are like them. Are you actively sharing the gospel in your hometown?

Pray for leaders to emerge among the North African people in Europe and establish movements of multiplying disciples and reproducing lasting groups among their people.

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UNREACHED

People are unreached because they live in remote, isolated, even closed areas. It seems impossible that the Good News can penetrate these barriers, but God is faithful. In the Horn of Africa, millions of people live in rural villages that are a half-day's walk, or farther, from the nearest paved road. There, the gospel is spreading through written form, radio, solar-powered recording devices,

cell phone memory cards, oral story telling and showings of the Jesus Film. In North Africa, following the Arab Spring, some closed countries opened to the gospel, but not all. One country in particular is home to over one million Arabs who have never heard the gospel and have no witness among them. Recently, this country opened its borders to outsiders to come and give aid to their hurting people.

Discuss what it would be like to hear the name of Jesus for the first time—to be the first in your family or village to hear the gospel. What would you think? How would you respond?

Pray that the gospel would continue to overcome physical barriers. Ask that many will go with a helping hand and words of truth to the North African countries opening to receive help.



JEWS

Whether going for the first time or going back, Jews from all over the world are moving to Israel. Many problems exist for the Jews—from global anti-Semitism to divisions within their own numbers. Only three percent of Jewish people know

Jesus as their Messiah. They live in a world that resonates with the Old Testament but do not understand what God was telling them—that their Savior was coming. Jesus came, and he will come again.

Discuss a time when something was right before your eyes, but you just couldn't see it. How could you help the Jews see their Messiah clearly?

Pray for the Jews to recognize that Yeshua (Jesus) is the long-awaited Messiah.



WORLD CITIES

In Matthew 13 Jesus likened the Kingdom of Heaven to a woman who put a little leaven into three measures of flour, and it permeated every part of the dough. In the world cities of North Africa and the Middle East, every culture, religion, race, language,

and economic group come together. Although many seek satisfaction in earthly things, many are searching for answers to bigger questions. Christian workers are praying that when they return home, they will take back the message of the gospel.

Discuss the kind of leaven you are putting into your community. What would it look like for you to put a little leaven into a world city, perhaps overseas?

Pray that God will place leaven in every neighborhood and business of the world cities of NAME, that each community will be saturated with Christ's loving disciples and that these diverse sojourners will take his love and salvation back home.



ORAL WORD MINISTRY

Verse-by-verse, the newly translated Word of God is being read and recorded by trained, local believers. This oral Word is being distributed by SD cards, giving people in NAME's low literacy society the ability to

hear God's Word in their own language—many for the first time. Local church leaders benefit from the recordings, as they are trained and in turn teach others.

Discuss the difficulty of being unable to read. How would you gain access to the gospel or the Bible in your language in a way you could understand it?

Pray and thank God that his Word is being made accessible in the low literacy societies of NAME. Ask God to anoint the team and their work, and that he will bring many to believe and grow in faith.



YOUTH EXPLOSION

A group of young girls with scarves on their heads walk down the street, skinny jeans and designer shoes peaking from their abayas (long black coats), texting on smart phones to the men slowly driving by them. The young men rely on family wealth, not seeing the need to work. Many, feeling useless, join extremist groups.

Over fifty percent of the population in most Arabian Gulf countries is under the age of 25. Modern technology, boredom and desperation for meaning have driven them to religion. Christian workers are reaching out to this generation, caught in the cross hairs of tradition, wealth and worldly pleasures.

Discuss how this generation of youth is caught in massive changes. How could you help?

Pray for godly resolution to the clash of traditional vs modern life that families are struggling with. Ask that youth will flee materialism or extremism and find the Savior.

Thank you for joining us in praying for the peoples of North Africa & the Middle East.

Did you know we have 8 more prayer guides for the other peoples of the world?

To download a FREE copy visit:

imb.world/PrayerGuides





*Rejoice in hope, be patient in
tribulation, be **constant in prayer.***

—Romans 12:12

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